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Smokey's Tale

Volunteers MAGAZINE

Vol. 19, NO. 19 / April 28, 1997

News from the Tennessee Volunteers

Orange and White Game Ends Spring Practice!

Tee Martin was one of the most improved players in spring drills.
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Senior linkster Tim Turpen leads the Vols in stroke average.

Linksters Gearing Up for Regionals

The men's golf team continued their theme of improvement during the final round of the Billy Hitchcock Intercollegiate as they finished sixth in a 12-team field. Volunteer scores and finishes got better with each passing round culminating in a Vol final round of four-over par 292 at Saugatchee Country Club in Opelika, Ala. The Vols ended the tournament 19-over par and 21 strokes behind winning Auburn.

Boomer Erick matched par to turn in his season-best score of 216 to the lead the Vols. Erick placed tied for seventh, also a season-best for the senior from Marco Island, Fla. Tim Turpen pulled off another successful tournament with a 219 to tie for 13th. Tennessee went 6-5 in the District 3-South play during the tournament, continuing to cloud the issue of who will earn a NCAA East Regional berth. The Vols participated in the SEC Championships at the Grand National Golf Club in Opelika, Ala., during this past weekend, finishing ninth with a 915 total, 36 shots behind winner Mississippi State.

BaseVols Return Home to Face South Carolina

The Vol baseball team returned home to take on the Gamecocks of South Carolina after taking two out of three at Kentucky and then sweeping Georgia by taking a come-from-behind 3-2 win on Sunday, despite Travis Copley and Justin Ross not playing.

The Vols had a mid-week affair against Middle Tennessee State, in what always amounts to a tough game between the two schools. The Vols jumped out to a 7-2 lead early and won the game 12-6. However, the big story of the night was the Vols Clay Greene setting a school record six stolen bases in seven attempts against the Blue Raiders. The lone pick off came in Greene's attempt to steel home in the third inning in which the Vols plated six runners.

The Vols bounced back off of the canvas after a flat performance in the first game of the series with Kentucky. The Wildcats scored 10 unearned runs to post a 14-1 victory. Saturday night's game saw the Vols rally from a five run deficit to pull out a 7-6 win in 10 innings. The rubber game of the series had Kentucky jump out to an early 2-1 lead after three innings, only to see the Tennessee bats come alive in the sixth, striking for seven runs on the way to an 11-4 romp.

The Vols found Clemson to be in an inhospitable host mood when the traveled to Clemson, S.C. as the #17 Tigers dropped the Vols 13-5. The Vols again rebounded to post a home win against East Tennessee State 7-1.

However, the Vols were able to cure whatever ailed them when Georgia rolled into Knoxville.

The Vols posted a 13-0 victory over the Bulldogs in the opener with a complete game victory from Luke Hudson. Jeff Pickler, going 8-for-12 on the weekend, was part of the onslaught that produced a school record 28 runs in Tennessee's 28-10 romp on Saturday. In the final game of the series, the Vols were without Justin Ross (inflamed left elbow), Travis Copley (leg injury) and Folkers (pitching duties) and had to rely on tough pitching and late inning heroics to pull out a 3-2 win. With the victory the Vols swept the Bulldogs, their first since the Arkansas series back in early March. The Vols are now 35-10 (13-8 SEC) on the season.

Baseball Adds to Signee List

Four more signees are set to enroll at Tennessee in the fall, bringing the total number of signees to 12 for next baseball season.

Two of the signees are Knoxville natives, Hal Bibee, Jr., and Matt Huskey, both from Webb High School. The third signee is Matt Garrett, an infielder from Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville. The lone junior college prospect is pitcher Kurt Scott, who attends Gadsden State Community College in Alabama, but is a Chattanooga native.

Bibee follows in his father's footsteps as he joins the Vols. His father played at Tennessee from 1973-75. Bibee has started every game at catcher since his freshman season. He currently holds a .458 batting average with two doubles and six RBIs. Last season he batted .470 with 11 doubles, five home runs and 34 RBIs in being named to the All-State team.

Garrett is a switch hitting catcher who hit .390 with three home runs as a junior. He follows former MBA graduates R.A. Dickey and Michael Anderson.

Huskey is a three-sport athlete from Webb High School. He plays both shortstop and pitcher, but will be used primarily as a pitcher at UT.

Scott, the lone junior college transfer, is 5-0 with a 2.40 ERA with 50 strikeouts in 45 innings pitched. He attended McCallie High School in Chattanooga before playing at Gadsden State.

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The First Word...

Coach Fulmer's .827 winning percentage places him second behind Nebraska's Tom Osborne among Division I coaches with at least five years of coaching experience.

As he nears the end of spring practice for his sixth season at the University of Tennessee, Phillip Fulmer has gained recognition from the NCAA as being in the top rank of the nation's most successful football coaches.

By the bottom line standard that matters most—victories against losses—Fulmer clearly has established himself in the highest echelons of his profession. Phillip's winning percentage, .827, puts him second in Division 1-A to Nebraska's Tom Osborne, who has posted a mark of .828 in 24 years with the Cornhuskers.

Completion of the 1996 season marked Fulmer's first entry into the NCAA rankings, which are based on a minimum five years longevity as a head coach. Rounding out the top five in the compilations that reward both consistency and seniority were Joe Paterno of Penn State (.794), R.C. Slocum of Texas A&M (.773) and Steve Spurrier of Florida (.770).

The next tier of coaches, ranking sixth through tenth, included Bobby Bowden of Florida State (.764), John Robinson of Southern California (.758), LaVell Edwards of Brigham Young (.736), Paul Pasqualoni of Syracuse (707), and Danny Ford of Arkansas (.689).

Fulmer's head coaching achievements continued on a high plane through the 1996 season. He guided the Vols to both a top 10 ranking and a 10-victory worksheet.

After an impressive 48-28 win over Northwestern in the Florida Citrus Bowl, Tennessee finished ninth in both the AP and CNN-USA Today polls. With a 10-2 record that followed an 11-1 1995 season, the 46-year-old Fulmer brought his overall mark at UT to 43-9. His bowl record is a sterling 4-1 and includes victories over Big 10 representatives Ohio State and Northwestern the last two years.

Fulmer's record year-by-year:

Season	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.	Bowl (W-L)
1992	4	0	0	1.000	Hall of Fame (W)
1993	10	2	0	.833	Florida Citrus (L)
1994	8	4	0	.667	Gator (W)
1995	11	1	0	.917	Florida Citrus (W)
1996	10	2	0	.833	Florida Citrus (W)

In his five seasons handling the reins as head coach, Fulmer has directed the Vols to a consistent upper level standing among college football powerhouses. Almost without exception Tennessee has been ranked weekly with the nation's top 10 teams and has been placed among the elite top five a total of 17 times.

—Haywood Harris

Here are the top 25 coaches in the official NCAA rankings (minimum five years as Division 1-A head coach; record at four-year colleges only):

1. Tom Osborne, Nebraska, .828.
2. Phillip Fulmer, Tennessee, .827.
3. Joe Paterno, Penn State, .794.
4. R.C. Slocum, Texas A&M, .773.
5. Steve Spurrier, Florida, .770.
6. Bobby Bowden, Florida State, 764.
7. John Robinson, Southern California, .758.
8. LaVell Edwards, Brigham Young, .736.
9. Paul Pasqualoni, Syracuse, .707.
10. Danny Ford, Arkansas, .689.
11. John Cooper, Ohio State, .687.
12. Gary Blackney, Bowling Green, .676.
13. Dennis Franchione, New Mexico, .669.
14. Jackie Sherrill, Mississippi State, .638.
15. Gary Pinkel, Toledo, .634.
16. Fisher DeBerry, Air Force, .620.
17. Don Nehlen, West Virginia, .619.
18. Ken Hatfield, Rice, .611.
19. Bill Snyder, Kansas, .603.
20. Ron McBride, Utah, .590.
21. John Mackovic, Texas, .585.
22. George Welsh, Virginia, .583.
23. Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech, .580.
24. Dick Tomey, Arizona, .579.
25. Ted Tollner, San Diego State, .574.

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A Look At The Vols...
SPOTLIGHT ON TENNESSEE FOOTBALL

Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer, already renowned for his recruiting prowess, may have landed his biggest prize ever last winter when Peyton Manning spurned the blandishments of the NFL in favor of spending another season in Big Orange Country.

The return of the 6-5, 222-pound Manning gives Tennessee a head start in overcoming the problems posed by the loss of starters at tailback, fullback, wide receiver and tight end.

Manning will be the stabilizing force in the reconstruction of the Vol offense. He comes off a season that was climaxed when he was named MVP of Tennessee's 48-28 win over Northwestern in the Florida Citrus Bowl. Working behind Manning, preparing to take over at quarterback in 1998, is Tee Martin, a strapping, 220-pound sophomore.

Who will pick up the cudgels of Tennessee's running game in 1997? Could it be Mark Levine, the No. 1 sub last year, Shawn Bryson, whose 5.2 average reflected just 18 carries last year, or the widely acclaimed but still unproven Brian Darden? Tailback is a position that could receive a boost from the highly regarded freshman class that arrives on campus in August.

Questions loom also at fullback. Who will perform the blocking duties carried out last year by the selfless duo of Chester Ford and Eric Lane? Phillip Crosby, a spring term arrival from Coffeyville (Kan.) Junior College, figures to get the opening call.

Tennessee's widely recognized history of featuring top-notch pass receivers should continue undiminished. The Vols lost a great one, but will bring back others who can post the same kind of statistics that made Joey Kent an all-time great. The torch is being passed to Marcus Nash, Peerless Price (who was injured in the Orange & White game, see p. 6 for details) and Andy McCullough. Nash's total of 53 catches was only 15 behind Kent's 68. Nash accounted for 688 yards. Andy McCullough, the third returnee to average at least two receptions a game, used his lanky frame (6-3, 201) to pull in 24 catches for 392 yards and four touchdowns. Jeremaine Copeland and Benjie Shuler are other lettermen who bring ability to the wide receiver posts.

Tight end, which benefited from

Bill Duff (50) and Jonathan Brown (91) close in on White team quarterback Tee Martin, who threw TD passes for both teams. Photo by Donnell Field.

veteran depth last year, is a position begging for new blood. The sole returnee, Eric Diogu, had very little playing time and only one reception. Neil Johnson went through spring practice with an efficiency in blocking and receiving that put him even with Diogu.

The Vols can put a variety of offensive line combinations on the field. Key members, all of whom started at least one game last year, will be Jarvis Reado, Trey Teague, Chad Clifton, Spencer Riley, Mercedes Hamilton, Diron Robinson and Robert Poole. Reado's return could reap big dividends. He was a leader last year until a broken leg befell him in the Florida game. Riley missed spring practice while trying to recuperate from a back injury. Others counted on to strengthen the line include Brad Lampley, Josh Tucker, Will Newman, Bernard Gooden, Sam Pinner and Toby Champion.

From a situation two years ago when it took considerable abuse when things went poorly, the Tennessee defense has evolved into a highly respected force.

Fulmer is delighted that one of the returnees on defense is Leonard Little, a stalwart who ranks with the best defensive players ever to wear the Orange. Fulmer would love to have Little at end, where he played last year. But he would also be thrilled to have him at linebacker. Therein lies a dilemma for the sixth-year Vol mentor.

Where do you assign a quick-striking marvel who was in on 33 tackles but, more importantly, registered 18 l/2 Big Plays in a season that was cut short by five games because of a knee injury? Where can Leonard unleash his massive talent to inflict maximum damage?

At end, Little will team with Jonathan Brown to provide outstanding senior bookends along the Vol front. Brown, 6-4 and 245, was a Big Play specialist in his own right, registering 12 of the momentum-changing maneuvers from his position on the right side. If Little goes to linebacker, a starting job at end could wind up in the hands of Jeff Coleman (6-4, 242), big enough to spend part of his time at tackle, which he did last year. Junior Corey Terry and sophomores Shaun Ellis and Darwin Walker should be able to move in capably.

Tackle could absorb the possible loss of one player switching to offense and still emerge a stronger position than in any other recent year. Progress registered last year by newcomers Billy Ratliff and Buck Buxton should minimize the damage that will result from Billy Beron's switch to the offensive line. Before Ratliff hurt his knee in the Arkansas game Nov. 16, he had stamped himself as a man to watch by registering seven tackles for lost yardage and two quarterback sacks. Ratliff will contend for a starting job with Bill Duff, a dependable senior who started every game last season. Buxton, who came to Tennessee from junior college ranks, made enough strides throughout the season that he will challenge junior Ron Green for the other starting post.

New faces will bring a different look to the linebacker position, but there are strong indications results will be consistent with the precedent set by the highly efficient Tyrone Hines and Co. last season. Hines teamed up with Little to set the tone for the defense, and it appears Leonard may be in line to succeed Tyrone as leader of the linebacker corps. If that's the case, worries about the future at middle linebacker will come to an abrupt halt. Otherwise, assuming Little remains at end, Shawn Johnson will probably get a chance to prove he deserves the job after a freshman season in which he posted 13 tackles.

As a sophomore, Al Wilson established himself as a capable starter, earning his spurs with an 87-tackle, 15-Big Play campaign. Al expects to fill the first team assignment at left linebacker again and help bring along a well regarded backup, Eric Westmoreland. Playing mainly on special teams as a freshman, Westmoreland delivered devastating licks that caught the fancy of the coaching staff. On the right side, Raynoch Thompson will move up from freshman ranks to make a run for the starting job. Ayan Martin hopes to contend for playing time.

It's Tennessee's good fortune that solid replacements appear to be at hand for Raymond Austin and Jason Parker. In the fight to succeed him at left cornerback, Steve Johnson enjoyed a slight edge based on experience, but the highly touted Gerald Griffin could make things uncomfortable. It will be a lively battle to settle on playing time.

Terry Fair, a fixture at right cornerback, brings more than defensive savvy to the squad. In addition to roaming the secondary, where he snared four interceptions in regular season play, Fair proved himself an exciting punt return man, ranking eighth nationwide with a 13.8-yard average. Fair faces a challenge for playing time from sophomores Dwayne Goodrich, a big play guy last year, and Mikki Allen.

Tori Noel made noteworthy strides throughout the 1996 season and was a solid performer in his first full year as a starter at strong safety. Noel finished as the team's third-leading tackler in his own quiet way.

Parker's probable successor at free safety, Cory Gaines, will need to nail the job down with some sharp scrimmage performances before the start of the season. Gaines realizes Parker is not an easy act to follow. Shane Begnaud is the backup to Gaines.

Placement specialist Jeff Hall has a nagging back injury that casts a cloud over his portion of the kicking game. Former high school all-star David Leaverton intends to take over as punter, Chris Hogue will back up Hall to the extent necessary, Kevin Gregory is out to win the snapper job and Benson Scott, son of former Vol Bobby (1968-70), is ticketed to be the holder. There's much work for the kicking corps to accomplish in the meantime.

—Haywood Harris

Orange and White Game Ends Spring Practice

Eric Parker and Dwayne Goodrich battle in the South end zone. Photo by Donnell Field.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., April 19, 1997 — They billed the annual Orange and White game as the "best against the rest" and the 49-7 score would indicate exactly that, although the heavily underdog White team (they don't have odds on spring games, do they?) did lead 7-0 at the end of the first quarter, on the strength of a well-thrown TD strike from quarterback Tee Martin to freshman wideout Eric Parker, who, as an early arriving rookie, looks to be the real thing.

Martin, for his part, was named Most Improved this spring, joining teammates Benjie Shuler, Bill Duff and Shawn Johnson as winners of the Harvey Robinson (Most Improved on Offense) and Andy Spiva (Most Improved on Defense) Awards.

The Orange team, led by fan favorite Peyton Manning, recoiled from the early deficit to score 49 unanswered points and take the lopsided decision. A crowd announced at 18,420 saw the festivities on an overcast Saturday afternoon.

Manning completed 15 of 18 passes for 278 yards, throwing two TD passes to Peerless Price covering 84 and 42 yards, another TD strike to Andy McCullough (4 yards) and a 12-yard strike to Jeremaine Copeland.

"This has always been one of my favorite days," Manning said after being mobbed by Vol fans at Fan's Day festivities. "We didn't come out quite like we wanted to, but once we got on track and they cut us loose a little bit we did all right. Peerless's injury is a scary situation.

"Tee Martin is coming along fine. The more reps you have, the better you're going to be. He worked hard in the off-season, his timing is better and he watched a lot of film.

"There were some really nice things said about my coming back. UT fans are like no other. They're the best in the world. It was a fun day for me. It was good being back out there with the guys."

The latter toss to Price came at a cost for Peerless and the Vols. Price came off the field with an ankle injury and underwent surgery tonight.

"THERE WERE SOME REALLY NICE THINGS SAID ABOUT MY COMING BACK. UT FANS ARE LIKE NO OTHER. THEY'RE THE BEST IN THE WORLD. IT WAS A FUN DAY FOR ME. IT WAS GOOD BEING BACK OUT THERE WITH THE GUYS."

—PEYTON MANNING

Martin came back to hit Parker for another TD, this one for the Orange team, from 15 yards out and found Mccullough for another score. Steve Johnson grabbed an interception in the right flat and found nothing but green grass between him and the North end zone.

Marcus Nash had four catches for 76 yards with a long of 52 as 22 different receivers caught ball for the Orange team. McCullough's four catches totalled but 22 yards, but also included two scores.

The Orange team racked up 488 yards total offense and held the White to but 77.

Chris Hogue, Robert Loudermilk and Les Binkley handled the place kicking duties, with Hogue knocking through four, Loudermilk three and Binkley one.

Just for perspective, the game was played without varsity Vols DB Shane Begnaud (knee), TE Bill Beron (shoulder), DE Brent Beavers (DE), OG Toby Champion (knee), DE Jeff Coleman (shoulder), RB Brian Darden (foot), DB Cory Gaines (shoulder), DT Ron Green (knee), PK Jeff Hall (back), OT Brad Lampley (shoulder), DE Leonard Little (knee), DE Josh Malnofski (hand), DB Tori Noel (knee), OT Jarvis Reado (leg), DT Billy Ratliff (knee), OG Spencer Riley (back) and WR Ronnie Strickland

(back).

The Vols will look to have these players back in uniform for fall drills and make a significant contribution to the team's fortunes in 1997.

Defensively, the Orange team did have nine sacks, although the rules of the game did require them only to touch the opposing team's quarterback for the sack. Jonathan Brown had three (-19), Shaun Ellis three (-15) and Buck Buxton two (-8). Corey Terry added one (-3). Terry and Al Wilson added lost yardage tackles. Defenders in Orange did seem to get in on the quarterback early and often.

Tee Martin (left) had a solid spring game and Jonathan Brown (right) was a force at defensive end.

WEEKEND NOTES: Joey Kent was drafted by the Houston Oilers in the second round. Jay Graham went to the Baltimore Ravens in the third round. Raymond Austin went to the New York Jets in the fifth round... Former UCLA coach Terry Donahue won the 1997 Robert R. Neyland Award, given since 1967 by the Knoxville Quarterback Club. Donahue said of the Vols: "They have good quality athletes, they do a heck of a job coaching, they're well-prepared for games, they have good plans, they study opponents well. I'm very impressed with Phillip Fulmer and his staff. If I had to describe Tennessee in one word, I'd say speed, man, speed." Former Vol blocking back Jimmy Hahn, winner of the 1951 Jacobs Trophy as the SEC's best blocker, won the East Tennessee Chapter's Distinguished American Award. The Chapter's Amateur Football Awards went to Webb School Coach David Meske, who guided Webb to its first state championship, Gary Shephard of Halls High School who guided his Red Devils to a 14-1 record and a berth in the Clinic Bowl championship game, long-time TSSAA football and basketball official and Neyland Stadium scoreboard operator Bill Bailey and longtime Knoxville official and official supervisor Jerry Glenn. The George L. Hunter Distinguished Community Service Awards, named for the late founder and president of the East Tennessee Chapter, went to Rob (Coach Bear) Dubov of Knoxville Catholic, Mike Foxx of Austin-East, Bob Greer of Powell, Brian Shutters of Chattanooga Notre Dame High School, and Rev. David Walker, team chaplain during his career at Bradley Central, Fulton and Sevier County High Schools. High School Scholar-Athletes honored were Barton Bailey of Oak Ridge, Jeremy Underwood of Wartburg, Matthew Tinker of Maryville, Jordan Bounds of Powell, Jordan Holbrook of Clinton, Jack Jeffers and Matthew Owens of Oneida, Sam Kirkham of Rockwood, Zach Lane of East Ridge, Nathan Grubb of the King's Academy, David Rowland of Anderson County, Dustin Blue Smith of Sevier County, Eric Myers of Bearden, Graham Hunter, Hall Bibee and Tee Cleveland of The Webb School of Knoxville, David Hoffman, T.J. Fowler and Ben Spina of Knoxville Catholic High School, David Quillin of South-Doyle, Gary Stinnett of Seymour, Justin Satterfield of Halls, and Dale Kile and Trey Burdette of Notre Dame High School in Chattanooga... Spring Academic Award winners honored at the Athletics Board meeting today were freshman John Dickson (track, 3.83 GPA), sophomore Tom Pappas (track, 3.83 recreation), junior Phil Carter (track, 3.95 GPA and senior Brad Lampley (football, 3.98 communications) on the men's side on the men's side and freshman Sara Lyng (rowing, 4.0), freshman Malin Tveit (golf, 4.0), freshman Heather Redecker (soccer, 4.0), sophomore Natalie Balash (soccer, 4/0 nursing), junior Jennifer Mancini (swimming, 3.95 GPA), and senior Amy Livsey (golf, 3.8). Academic Achievement Awards went to footballers Chester Ford and Shazzon Bradley and Lady Vol trackster Kelly Smith... Dr. Craig M. Ferrell, Ken Hall, Kent Martin, Janna Hooker McCormick, Karla Dreisler McQuain and Reid Patterson will be inducted into the Tennessee Swimming Hall of Fame Sept. 13 in Maryville. Hall was the Vols' first diving coach (1967-69). McQuain was the Lady Vols top sprinter in the mid-1980s, winning the SEC 50 race in 1986. Martin was a middle distance freestyler 1977-80 who won the SEC 1650 freestyle three times and the 500 freestyle twice. Patterson has officiated UT home meets since 1973. McCormack swam at Texas. Ferrell's induction was based on his medical contributions to swimming.

— Volunteers Magazine Staff

Orange and White Game Statistics

Team Statistics	Orange	White
First Downs	21	6
Rushing	8	2
Passing	13	2
Penalty	0	2
Rushing Attempts	22	28
Yards Gained	147	53
Yards Lost	8	30
Net Yards Rushing	139	23
Net Yards Passing	349	54
Passes Attempted	29	12
Passes Completed	22	6
Had Intercepted	1	2
Total Offensive Plays	52	40
Total Net Yards	488	77
Average Gain	9.6	1.9
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties No-Yds.	3-35	2-18
Punts-Average	1-36.0	6-38.7
Int. Returns-Yds.	2-30	1-4
Fumble Returns-Yds.	0-0	0-0
Third Down Conversions	6-9	1-9
Fourth Down Conversions	1-2	0-1
Sacks By-Yards	7-25	0-0

WHITE	7	0	0	0	- 7
ORANGE	0	28	7	14	- 49

1-WHITE Parker, pass from Martin 35. Hogue kick.
Drive: 55 yards, 2 plays. 1:27 possession, 0:03 on clock.
2-ORANGE McCullough, pass from Manning 4. Loudermilk kick.
Drive: 65 yards, 8 plays, 2:29 possession, 9:34 on clock.
2-ORANGE Price, pass from Manning 84. Hogue kick.
Drive: 84 yards, 1 plays, 0:11 possession, 6:22 on clock.
2-ORANGE Price, pass from Manning 42. Loudermilk kick.
Drive: 65 yards, 3 plays, 1:06 possession, 3:20 on clock.
2-ORANGE Copeland, pass from Manning 12. Loudermilk.
Drive: 86 yards, 6 plays, 0:58 possession, 1:22 on clock.
3-ORANGE St. Johnson, pass interception 30. Hogue kick.
Drive: 11:02 on clock.
4-ORANGE McCullough, pass from Martin 5. Loudermilk kick.
Drive: 55 yards, 8 plays, 4:21 possession, 8:15 on clock.
4-ORANGE Parker, pass from Martin 15. Binkley kick.
Drive: 68 yards, 7 plays, 4:15 possession, 00:14 on clock.

Rushing	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	TD	Long
Levine (O)	5	32	1	31	0	17
Bryson (O)	7	44	3	41	0	13
Crosby (O)	7	51	0	51	0	19
Martin (O)	1	10	0	10	0	10
Fair (O)	1	10	0	10	0	10
Edmonds (W)	3	10	0	10	0	6
Fitzgerald (W)	1	7	0	7	0	7
Hembree (W)	6	9	4	5	0	5
Pate (W)	4	4	1	3	0	2
Prince (W)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Plemons (W)	1	0	5	-5	0	-5

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yards	TD	Long
Manning (O)	18	15	0	278	4	84
Martin (O/W)	18	13	0	125	3	35
Windle (W)	2	0	1	0	0	0
Plemons (W)	2	0	1	0	0	0

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Nash (O)	4	76	0	52
McCullough (O)	4	22	2	7
P. Price (O)	2	126	2	84
Parker (O/W)	2	50	2	35
Copeland (O)	3	44	1	17
Shuler (O)	2	17	0	13
Bryson (O)	2	14	0	11
Corby (O)	1	15	0	15
Fair (O)	1	9	0	9
Levine (0)	1	6	0	6

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long
Hogue (O/W)	3	104	38.0	36
Leaverton (W)	3	123	41.0	44
Hurst (W)	1	41	41.0	41

All Returns	Punts No.	Yds.	LP	Kickoffs No.	Yds.	LP	Int. No.	Yds.	LP
St. Johnson (O)							1	30	30
Goodrich (O)							1	0	0
Breeden (W)							1	4	4

Fulmer File...

Orange and White Game 1997

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here's what head coach Phillip Fulmer said to the press after the Orange and White game on April 21 and in response. As was noted in our story on p. 6, Peerless underwent surgery on his ankle the night of the game in Knoxville.

Some general thoughts. Obviously we hope that Peerless Price is going to be o.k. You do all you can, you put a guy in a green shirt and you watch him all spring. It's still football and you can't really fault anybody, I guess, for that kind of injury.

Generally, I thought it was what you might expect. Peyton played exceptionally well. He handled the offense like you would want a quarterback to. I was not at all disappointed with Tee Martin in the first half. He competed with that group and certainly gave them a thrill there at the beginning with a touchdown pass. It looked like Eric Parker had a good game and a made a couple of big plays. Obviously both sides were limited as to what they could do, but Shawn Bryson and Mark Levine showed up a time or two. I still don't see anybody breaking that other tackle and going the distance, which is something that we are looking for.

Defensively, there was a good rush out of the Orange team, which we expected. Generally, I think it was good, but it just put a heck of a damper on it with Peerless being injured.

Overall, I think our spring was productive. There was a lot to do with this team at tailback, tight end, and the depth at linebacker. Our punter had a decent average, but I didn't see him hitting the ball the way he is capable of hitting it. We have to get a lot more consistent there. I think Chris Hogue had an exceptional spring and he didn't do anything today to disappoint us at all.

Now it is putting the pieces together over the summer and getting everybody healthy, staying focused, having the right attitude, and responding to the leadership. NCAA rules don't let us coach them in the summer, but the players can get out there, work hard and do their thing to continue to improve.

What is the recovery time of Peerless's injury?

I don't know that right at this point. They said it would be difficult to have him ready for start of the season. We've been really fortunate, and I think been wise, in the way we've been practicing. We've looked at it and we have not changed anything. We just have had a number of people, most of them in games, that have gotten injured. We have to get those guys back starting with Leonard Little and Billy Ratliff. They have to do a great job of rehabilitating and getting themselves ready. If it came down to it Peerless has not redshirted, so that in itself is a plus. Terry Fair has worked some at that position during the spring and Eric Parker and Jeremaine Copeland did give us good depth at receiver, but that was counting Peerless in that mix. We will have to sit back and evaluate it and see who needs to be where. Obviously Marcus Nash, as he would have anyway, needs to step up and be the guy to go to.

"Now it is putting the pieces together over the summer and getting everybody healthy, staying focused, having the right attitude, and responding to the leadership. NCAA rules don't let us coach them in the summer, but the players can get out there, work hard and do their thing to continue to improve."

— Phillip Fulmer

Was Peerless the best receiver this spring?

I would not exactly say that. He and Marcus are neck and neck as far as who was the best. It is almost not worth having the game when you have something like this come up, but it could have just as easily have happened in practice.

Talk about the running game today.

It was good to see Phillip Crosby do some good things and Bryson and Levine both ran hard, but I will have to see the film. I think we did all right blocking for the most part, but I don't see it being anything outstanding at this point.

Where is the offensive line as compared to this time last year.

This time last year is night and day from where they were. We are not where we need to be yet. We need to get Jarvis Reado and Spencer Riley back out there and healthy. We need to have some real competition. I think Diron Robinson made a real move this spring from an understanding standpoint and from putting everything he had into being as good as he can be. He needs to do the same thing this summer and not get satisfied. Chad Clifton made a ton of progress over the off-season and during the spring. Those two, I think, stood out as far as the improvement. Robert Poole was a lot more consistent this spring than he has been, but as a unit they are not there yet.

— Phillip Fulmer

GOOD NEWS NOTES: Peerless Price, Brad Lampley, Andy McCullough and Marcus Nash were part of Special Olympic festivities in Gatlinburg. Lampley was the featured speaker. All players signed programs and cards for athletes participating in the games from across the state. Coach Fulmer and Jeff Hall were part of festivities at the Blount County Boy's and Girl's Club on April 21. At the annual Chancellor's Honors Banquet on April 9, Manning was awarded a Chancellor's Citation for "Extraordinary Cmapus Leadership and Service," Eric Lane a Citation for "Extraordinary Community Service", and Manning, Brad Lampley and golfer Boomer Erick earned Awards for Extraordinary Academic Acheivement.

1997 COCA-COLA BIG ORANGE CARAVAN KICKS OFF

Head football coach Phillip Fulmer greets some of the loyal Vol fans on the Caravan.

The eighth annual Big Orange Caravan begins its 13-stop tour April 28 in Memphis. The Caravan will criss-cross the state in late April and May and will also make stops in Atlanta and Charlotte.

"The Caravan is a great opportunity for Vol fans to meet Phillip Fulmer, new basketball coach Jerry Green and other staff members face-to-face, and get a snapshot or autograph," said UT Associate Athletic Director Mike Hamilton, coordinator of the event. "Our coaches always enjoy sharing their previews of the upcoming season with Vol fans across the state."

A day of golf with Fulmer, Green and other Vol coaches and staff members, will begin in the early afternoon in most locations. A dinner/reception will follow, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Coca-Cola is the official sponsor of the 1997 Caravan.

Persons interested in participating in the golf tournaments should call the local contacts listed below. Those who would like to attend only the evening dinner/programs should call the UT Development Office (423) 974-3011 for more information.

The 1997 Coca-Cola Big Orange Caravan

Date	*City*	*Location*	*Golf Contact/Phone*
April 28	Memphis	Ridgeway CC Noon ***	Jana Fuqua 901/372-3876
April 29	Paris	Paris Landing State Park Noon	Bill Jelks 901/642-0673/642-4310
May 1	**Athens**	**Springbrook CC 12:30 p.m**	**Mike Bevins 423/744-2620**
May 2	**Sevier Co.****	**Gatlinburg CC 10 a.m.**	**Allen Newton 423/436-0526**
May 5	**Greene County**	**Graysburg Hills 9 a.m.**	**Mike Quarles 423/787-1282**
May 12	Cookeville	Cookeville CC Noon	Mike Phipps 615/526-5904
May 13	Nashville	Hermitage Golf Course 1:30 p.m.	Terry Smith 615/244-2130
May 15	**Franklin**	**The Legends Golf Club 1 p.m.**	**Jere Prewitt 615/248-1126**
May 19	**Fairfield Glade**	**Stonehenge Golf Club 8 a.m.**	**Robin Campbell 615/456-4241**
May 20	**Chattanooga**	**Eagle Bluff Golf Club 12:30 p.m.**	**Chuck Marsh 423/855-2020**
May 14	Tullahoma	Lakewood CC Noon	Scott Copeland 615/455-3444
May 21	Atlanta	Towne Lake Hills Noon	Allen Vaughn 770/516-8657
May 22	Charlotte	Rain Tree Golf Club Noon ***	Mike Kemp 704/394-3610

(All Times Local)

** *In conjunction with Rocky Top Birthday Bash* *** *Spikeless Shoes Only*

Ben Byrd...
REMEMBERING THE DIAMOND VOLS OF 1970

It was the afternoon of May 13, 1970, just over 25 years ago, and one of the biggest crowds in the history of University of Tennessee baseball had gathered at Hudson Field to watch the Vols and Mississippi State duke it out in the first game of the Southeastern Conference Championship series.

There was an extra added attraction. Along with the serious business of getting one leg up voices of such renowned entertainers as Gomer Pyle, Archie Bunker and Red Foxx describing, and sometimes analyzing, the play on the field. The fans laughed as much as they cheered.

Gomer, Archie and Red were really one person. Describing the game fo the UT radio station with loudspeakers aimed at the stands from the nearby fraternity house, UT basketball player Roger Peltz was entertaining as well as informing his listeners. It wasn't actually Gomer and Archie and Red, but you couldn't tell the difference.

Whether Peltz's comic patter had anything to do with the outcome or not is conjecture, but the fact is that the Vols won the game 8-4 and moved on to Starkville for the final two games with a one-up lead. And Peltz himself went on from his campus clowning to a distinguished career as one of the entertainment world's finest comic impressionists, with a long list of triumphs on TV and in the Las Vegas night spots.

The Mississippi State team, which had smouldered a bit at some of Roger's more pointed barbs, did much better without him. back home on the 15th and 16th, the Bulldogs eked out two one-run victories, 4-3 and 1-0, to win the series and go on to the College World Series as the SEC representative.

The side attraction at the opening game and the fact that State wound up winning the championship somewhat obscured the fact that this was an awfully good UT baseball team. The writer has always regarded the 1970 team as the best ever in the long and productive coaching career of Bill Wright, who wound up a 28-year run in 1981 with more than 400 victories.

The `70 Vols went 24-10 overall, playing a very formidable schedule. They were 12-3 in the SEC. This, we should remember, came at a time when baseball was not as generously funded by the school as it is today. There were fewer scholarships, and a far more modest budget.

Even so, Wright had managed to assemble a very talented squad for the `70 season, including some of the biggest name stars ever to wear a Vol uniform. Sam Ewing, the slugging southpaw first baseman, batted .464 that season, the highest average in UT diamond history. He also led the team in doubles and runs scored. Infielder Phil Garner led the club in hits, runs batted in and triples. Outfielder Bobby Tucker was the leading home run producer with 10.

Baseball was to hear much more from Garner, who went on to a long major league career with a number of clubs, notably the world champion Pittsburgh Pirates of 1979. The fiery competitor they called "Scrap Iron" is now the manager of the Milwaukee Brewers. Ewing, too, got some hot licks with Toronto and the Chicago White Sox in a briefer big league stint, and later managed in the high minor leagues.

As Vol baseball coaches had to do in past times, Wright borrowed from the football and basketball teams to bolster his lineup. Gridders Roger McKinney and George Hunt and cager Rudy Kinard played key roles in the success of the `70 team. Kinard, a classy shortstop, later enjoyed a fine career in the high minor leagues. The top pitcher was lefthander Jimmy Lee, with eight victories. He had strong help from Hunt and Joe O'Brien.

As winners of the SEC East title, the `70 Vols were Tennessee's first baseball champions since the 1951 team that won the conference crown and went on to finish runner-up in the College World Series. At a time when UT baseball was too often overlooked or just plain ignored, the 1970 Vols cranked up the old engine and got it rolling again.

Former Vol

Bobby Tucker (1970-73)

Memphis Messick High School product Bobby Tucker was a key part of Vol fortunes during his career in the early 70's. Tucker was an All-America selection in 1973 and was All-SEC each of his four years as a Vol. He was also an Academic All-SEC selection in 1971, 72 and 73.

He still holds a single-season record with three grand slams in the 1970 season, and the career slugging-percentage mark of .721. Over his career he had 36 doubles, part of 76 extra base hits and a career batting average of .389 (third-best in Vol records). He had 147 career RBIs, 326 total bases, and 34 home runs, all in the top ten of Vol career marks. He led the 1972 and 73 teams in batting average and hits, and led the 1971-73 teams in RBIs.

Tucker was drafted by the Chicago White Sox in the 15th round of the 1973 draft.

Lettermen's records indicate that he now lives in his home town of Memphis.

Bobby Tucker still ranks high in the Vol baseball record book.

Lettermen News & Notes...April 1997 Golf Tournament

This Week In Big Orange Country

Vols Struggle In Season

With inexperience on Tennessee's side at the beginning of the season, head coach John Kreis knew that 1997 could be a long season. After going 19-9 in his first endeavor as the Vols' leader and a 11-11 sophomore campaign, the Tennessee alum recruited players to ensure winning in the program's future. Freshmen Juan Gamboa, Bill and Dan McGugin and Kaspar Rasmussen, along with Alabama transfer Louis Van Huyssteen (who was later dimissed from the squad), added some necessary support to the holes left by Chris Mahony and Pablo Montana's exit at the end of 1996. Although, Tennessee struggled to a 5-15 overall mark and a winless 0-11 record in SEC play, flares of excellence throughout the season proved that the future of Tennessee tennis will be a bright one.

Facing the loss of their potential No. 1 player in Chad Copenhaver to a back injury, the Vols took to the courts for the first time in 1997 in the O'Charley's Tennis Classic. They emerged with a 1-3 record after losing to Indiana (74) and South Alabama (10) and winning over South Florida (38). Tennessee then went on a 4-5 spurt with wins over The Citadel, Murray State, UTC and Clemson (49) and losses to Virginia Tech (45), Georgia (3), Vanderbilt (73), Georgia Tech (47) and Florida (25). The Vols ended the season with an eight-match losing streak to highly-ranked SEC opponents Mississippi (8), Arkansas (38), LSU (14), Kentucky (5), Mississippi State (3), Alabama (20), South Carolina (35) and Auburn (19). This put the Vols at a 5-15 mark with an 0-11 record in the SEC, but not without some exceptional play by certain individuals.

Thomas Mozur was the lone senior on this year's squad. Photo by Donnell Field.

The surprise of the season was Gamboa and Rasmussen who both led the team in overall and dual-match wins. Gamboa, a native of Colombia, South America, ended his regular season play with a 23-14 mark and a dual-match record of 11-8. Rasmussen finished the regular season with an 18-17 overall record and 10-9 in dual matches.

Mark Way, a sophomore from Australia, played the majority of the year in the No. 1 singles spot where he compiled a 6-18 record and posted two huge wins over highly-ranked opponents (No. 2 Matthieu Ballay of Miss. State and No. 25 Keith Brill of South Carolina). Senior Thomas Mozur rotated the majority of the year between positions two and four where he totaled six wins versus 10 losses and a 9-15 overall mark on the season.

Emerging from the pack of pairs tried by Kreis were the tandems of Rasmussen and Way along with twin brothers Bill and Dan McGugin. Rasmussen and Way, who played the No. 1 spot in the majority of Tennessee's dual matches, tallied a 7-11 overall mark on the season while the McGugins, playing primarily at No. 3, finished the 1997 regular season at 11-11.

Although, Tennessee saw a season in 1997 like no other in its spectacular history, the Vols are sure not to be down long. And, with the return of Chad Copenhaver from a medical-redshirt year, along with the continued support by the current freshmen, the Vols will be back on top in SEC tennis.

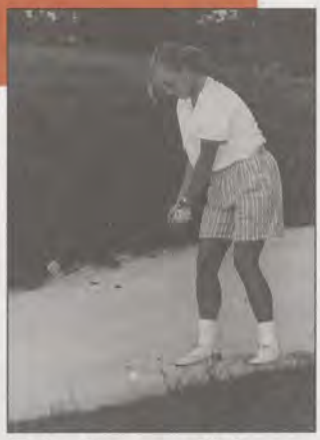
NOTE: The Vols ended their season in the first round of the SEC Tourney with a 4-1 loss to No. 5 seed Kentucky. The Vols end the season 5-16, 0-12 SEC and the Vols now turn their attention to next season behind them.

—Chad King

Golf On A Roll

It took five years to get to this point, but this is the position the Lady Vol golf team has wanted to be in—the hunted, not the hunter. With a senior, three juniors, a sophomore and a freshman making up the six-member squad, Coach Lori Brock's Lady Vols are atop the SEC and in position to make their second NCAA Tournament in their five-year existence. Led by junior Erin Kurczewski, who is the No. 15-ranked player in the nation, UT has won three tournaments and finished second twice (including once in a two-team playoff) out of a total of nine competitions, and is preparing for a national-championship run. This season the team has shot six sub-300 rounds, the only other time they shot that low, they made the NCAAs. In contrast last year, the did not break the 300-barrier once.

Although it might seem unlikely to some, an NCAA title is not that far fetched. Tennessee is not a traditional national power like defending champ Arizona or other contenders San Jose State, Arizona State and Duke, but the squad is No. 4 in the polls, its highest-ever ranking. Entering this season, UT had won four tournaments in four years. Adding three to the list this season has given the team tremendous confidence down the stretch, but according to senior Amy Livsey has not added pressure. "We have had a really successful season, no matter what happens over the next three weeks," noted Livsey. "Although we have not made nationals the past two years, I have confidence we will be there this year. Going to nationals is based on one tournament, so it will leave things up in the air."



Erin Kurczewski is currently the 15th ranked player in the country.

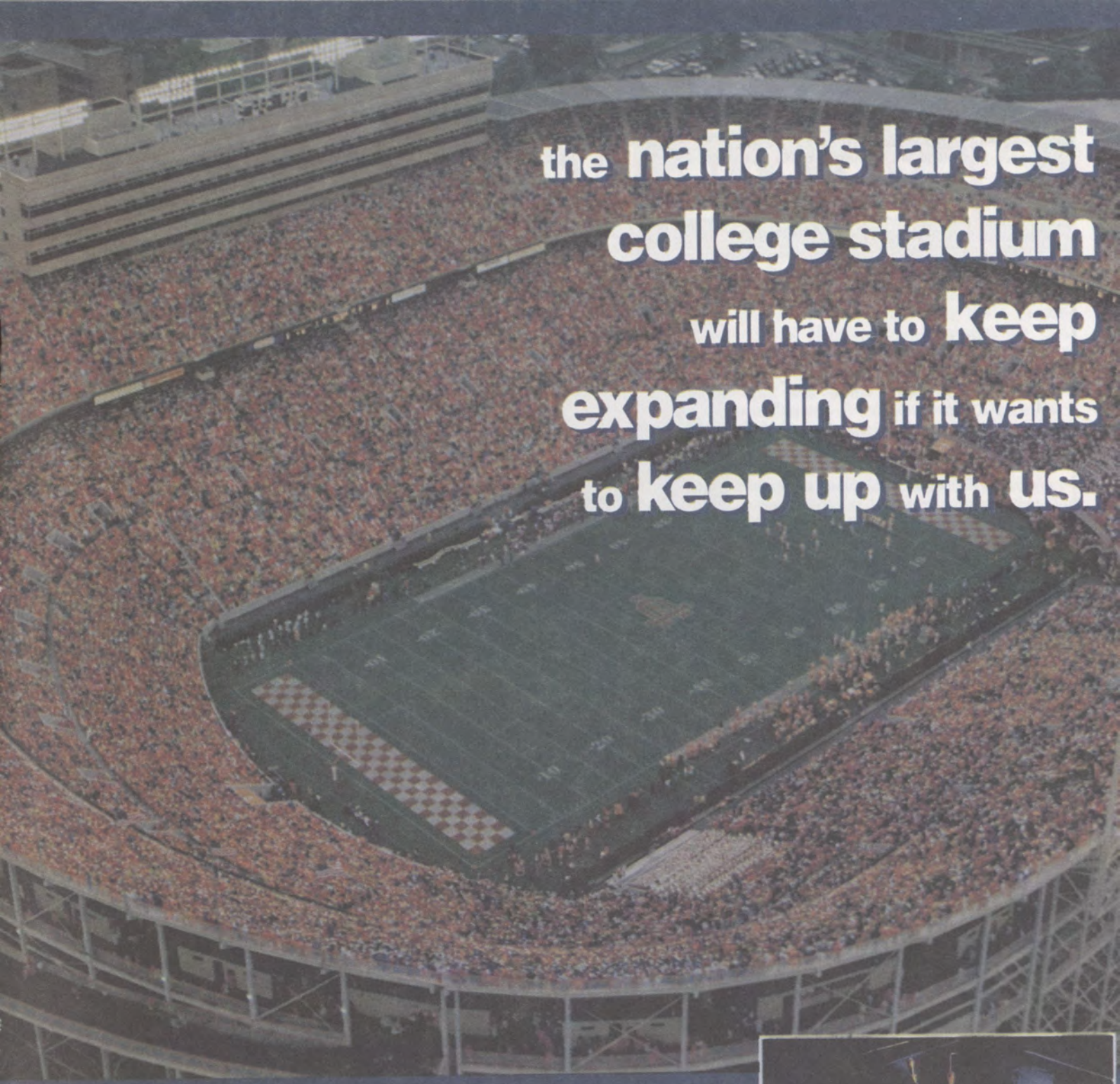
But, it has been an inability in those crucial season-ending competitions (fifth and sixth at the 1996 and 1997 SEC Tournaments and eighth and ninth at the last two NCAA Regionals) which has many wondering if this time around the team is capable of achieving their goals. But the experience and leadership of stable veterans like Livsey and Kurczewski should help the squad this time around.

The Lady Vols entered the SEC Tournament coming off back-to-back wins at the Lady Gamecock Classic (in which they shot team-record 293s on the last two days) and the Duke Spring Invitational (where they ran away from the field by seven strokes). Kurczewski led the way finishing in a tie for third at the Lady Gamecock, while at Duke sophomore Jessica Lindbergh (who shot a second-round, team and season-low 69) was fourth with Kurczewski in fifth. Both Kurczewski and Lindbergh, who were selected second-team All-SEC, are averaging rounds of 76, the lowest marks on the team.

Confidence seems to be the key to the team's success thus far and bodes them well for their stretch run. Next up for the squad will be the NCAA East Regionals May 8-10 in Bloomington, Ill. If Tennessee, which has finished one spot out of making the cut the past two years, places in the top seven, the team will advance to the NCAA Championships, May 21-24 in Columbus, Ohio. If the team does not qualify, Kurczewski and Lindbergh are strong candidates to be among the four individuals to join the field.

"Anything we accomplish after what we have already done is gravy," concluded Livsey. "Usually this time of year, I am dreading the last three tournaments, but this year we are looking at it with a lot of anticipation instead of fear like we have in the past."

—Brad Laux



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VASF NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY STEVE SAMS

Big Orange Caravan

Once again, it is time to strap those golf spikes and head to your local country club when the Big Orange Caravan comes to town. The caravan travels all across the state of Tennessee and the Southeast. It is a traveling opportunity for Tennessee Volunteer friends and fans alike to meet and get to know the Tennessee coaches and athletic staff. Each day's activities include a round of golf and an evening cookout. Most stops also offer the opportunity to only attend the dinner if you choose. Elsewhere in this issue is a listing of the caravan stops and contact persons of the entire trip. Be sure to make your reservations early for when the caravan stops close to your hometown.

Make plans to attend the final home series of the season as UT takes on South Carolina. Photo by Donnell Field.

South Carolina Series Baseball Promotions

When the BaseVols host the South Carolina Gamecocks on May 2, 3, and 4, there are some great promotions slated for this weekend. On Friday night, WIVK AM 990 will sponsor cap night. The first 1,000 fans will receive a Tennessee baseball cap. Saturday night's game will bring Aztex/Gatorade Sports Bottle night. The first 500 fans will receive a Tennessee baseball sports bottle. On Sunday, all Little League players, in uniform, will be admitted free. Be sure to mark your calendar for these upcoming promotions from Tennessee baseball.

1997 Football Tickets

With the annual Orange and White game behind us, the talk in Big Orange Country has turned to football. Ticket applications and renewals were mailed last week. The ticket office apologizes for the delay in getting them out. Be sure to get your ticket orders returned to the ticket office by MAY 1. With the deadline fast approaching, here are a few reminders the VASF would like everyone to remember.

If you are a new donor to the VASF in 1997 and have not yet received your ticket application, call the VASF Office at (423) 974-1218.If you had season tickets in 1996 and did not receive either a renewal application or a new ticket application, call the VASF Office at (423) 974-1218.

The ticket office will not accept any credit card renewals by phone. Please mail the application.

Your ticket applications reflect the amount of away and additional home game tickets you are eligible to order based upon your donor level.

Please do not order more tickets than you are eligible. The phrase, "Limit of 2 + 2 if available" means that you may order up to four tickets. As always, there are no guarantees on away tickets due to the size of the allotment each host university gives Tennessee. Usually the Vols ask for the maximum available allotment, but many times even this is not enough tickets to satisfy all orders.

All new season tickets, mini-season tickets, additional home game tickets, and away game ticket orders will be charged and processed in late spring. They will be filled over the course of the summer. In the event that the ticket office is unable to fill your ticket order, payments will be refunded in mid-August. For refunds, money will be credited back to credit cards or checks will be issued if the order was purchased with cash or a check.

Season tickets will be shipped via United Parcel Service and will require an adult signature for delivery. Also, UPS needs a street address and daytime telephone number of the person whose name the tickets are listed under. Season tickets will be shipped the first week of August.

Away game tickets, and additional home game tickets will be mailed the second week of August.

Columbus, Ga., is the site of this year's SEC Tournament. Tickets are still available. Photo by Donnell Field.

1997 Football Parking

Applications for parking permits for the 1997 football season will be mailed the first week of June. They are due back in the VASF Office in mid-July. All donors at the $250 level and above will be sent an application or renewal form. Contact Claire Stone in the VASF Office for more information at (423) 974-1218.

1997 SEC Baseball Tournament

The 1997 SEC Baseball Tournament will be held in Columbus, Georgia. Enjoy the tradition of the nation's top collegiate baseball conference as it battles at Golden Park. The top three teams in each division, as well as two wildcards from either division, compete for the Tournament title and the automatic bid to an NCAA regional. Tickets are sold in a complete package and are $50 for general admission and 465 for Reserved seating. To charge by phone with a Visa or MasterCard credit card, call the Greater Columbus Sports and Events Council at (706) 660-1996.

Golf Places Sixth at SECs

The fourth-ranked Tennessee women's golf team concluded the 54-hole SEC Championships in sixth after shooting a three-day total of 916, 17 strokes shy of champion Georgia. Leading the Big Orange was junior Erin Kurczewski who tied for ninth with a 226. Sophomore Jessica Lindbergh, senior Amy Livsey and freshman Malin Tveit all tied for 19th at 231. Second-year head coach Lori Brock was named the "SEC Coach of the Year", while Kurczewski earned her third consecutive second-team all-conference honor. Also receiving all-SEC accolades were Lindbergh as a second-team selection and junior Rachel Thompson as an honorable mention choice.

Tennis Falls in SEC Semis

The 16th-ranked and fourth-seeded Lady Vol tennis team advanced all the way to the semifinals of the SEC Tournament before losing to top-ranked and top-seeded Florida, 6-1. After earning its third straight first-round bye, UT faced No. 27-ranked and fifth-seeded LSU in the quarters. For the second time in a week, Tennessee upended the Tigers by a 5-4 count to give the team its first tournament win since 1993. The Lady Vols ended the tourney with a 17-9 record and await their draw in the NCAA Regionals which takes place from May 9-11.

Softball Takes Tourney Title

UT avenged three previous losses to 14th-ranked South Florida by taking the championship of the Lady Vol Spring Invitational with a 3-2 title-game victory on Apr. 20. Tennessee had earlier lost to USF by an identical 3-2 score in the round-robin portion of the tournament. In the semifinals, UT toppled UNC Greensboro, 15-1, after finishing the first two days of the tournament with a 4-1 mark. Senior shortstop Tracy Reidhead was named as the tournament's MVP, while sophomore pitcher Buffy Walker, senior third baseman Bridget Jackson and sophomore outfielder Kenyail Norris each earned all-tournament honors.

Bonner and Pesek Win Title in U.S. Diving Indoor Championships

Senior Tracy Bonner and sophomore Kathy Pesek teamed to capture the three-meter springboard synchronized diving event at the U.S. Diving Indoor Championships from Apr. 16-20 in Auburn, Ala. Bonner also placed sixth in the three-meter springboard competition. With their performances, both Bonner and Pesek earned spots on the U.S. National Team. The duo now advances to compete in the FINA Grand Prix in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., next month and have also qualified for the World Championship trials in November. As a team, Bonner, Pesek and senior Dawn Burton, helped the Lady Vols to a third-place finish, its highest ever.

Rowing Makes Impressive Showing at SIRA

The Lady Vol Rowing team came away with a first, second, third and fifth-place in the four races they entered at the highly-competitive Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association regatta in Oak Ridge on Apr. 19. The JV 4+ shell captured its victory by nearly eight seconds, while the varsity 4+ finished just behind Virginia in second. The other two UT shells, the novice 8+ and the lightweight 8+, placed third and fifth, respectively. Next up for UT was the Mid-West Championships in Madison, Wisc., on Apr. 26.on Apr. 26.

On a crisp autumn night you can almost hear ol' Smokey's howl rolling down through the Blue Hills of Tennessee
This handsom sculpture by renowned artist Jennifer Grisham will be right at home on the desk or mantle of any proud Volunteer fan.
The mold will be destroyed after seven hundred are cast ensuring the value of the edition. Each piece has a signed and numbered certificate of authenticity
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The Sea Ray Relays "Spring Tradition"

Junior Wes Boudreau warms up for the hammer throw at the Sea Ray Relays. Boudreau finished fifth in the competition. Photo by Donnell Field.

Spring brings many things to East Tennessee and the University of Tennessee campus. Among those things are the Dogwood Arts Festival, the Orange and White football game, baseball in Lindsey Nelson Stadium and the Sea Ray Relays to Tom Black Track.

This year marked the 31st running of the Sea Ray Relays which started in 1967 and carried the name Dogwood Relays. The meet carried that name until the Sea Ray Boat Company picked up sponsorship in 1987 and the event became the Sea Ray Relays in 1992.

Through the years the meet has grown to where this year's version hosted more than 1,500 athletes from universities and colleges around the nation and from countries around the world. The meet has seen over 100 Olympians from various countries, and many Olympic medalists have also donned their spikes on Tom Black Track.

Fourteen United States Olympians competed in this year's event, which was held April 9-12, and three of those are gold medal winners. There were also participants from other countries who have represented their countries in Olympics such as sprinter Michael Green who competed for Jamaica in the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta and hurdler Latanya Nobles who has represented Bahamas in the Olympics.

Jearl Miles Clark picked up a gold in the 1,600 meter relay in Atlanta and won the 200 meters at this year's Sea Rays. The last two Olympic gold medalists in the 400 meter hurdles competed in this year's event as well. Derrick Adkins, the 1996 winner, won the event in a time of 48.65 breaking the meet record previously held by Edwin Moses since 1977. Kevin Young, the 1992 gold medalist, placed third.

So the field was full of world class athletes, and Tennessee had its share of competitors in the field.

Among them was two-time Olympian and UT graduate Todd Williams, who many consider the top distance runner in the United States.

Williams held true to form in winning the 5,000 meters in a time of 13:20.29. His time shattered the meet and track record by nearly 11 second. Former Olympian Sindey Maree set both marks in 1979 while competing for Villanova.

"I exceeded my goals with my time," he said. "I would have been ecstatic about a 13:25. The track record was one of my goals. I have wanted go after it for the past three years, and I now I got it and crushed it."

Other current and former Volunteers also picked up wins.

Dawane Wallace, a sophomore from Alexandria, Va., clocked a time of 13.73 to win the 110 meter hurdles. He became the first Vol since Willie Gault in 1983 to win this event. Junior Chris Brown picked up a win for the Vols in the 10,000 meters with a time of 30:17.10, besting the second place finisher by 10 seconds.

Scott Perkinson, a sophomore from Nashville, won the open discus competition with a throw of 173-05. Russell Wallace

topped in the competition in the open pole vault with a vault of 17-8.5 and followed that win a win the invitational pole vault. Lady Vol Leslie Hensley won the women's pole vault with a vault of 11-03.

The Lady Vols also threepeated in the 400 meter relay. Kellie White, Erica Whitter, Heather Sumpter and Kim Smallwood clocked a time of 44.27. White, Whitter and

Sumpter were members of last year's winning team.

Knoxville native and UT graduate Tony Cosey, who now runs for Adidas, made a successful return to Tom Black Track. Cosey won the 3,000 meter steeplechase in 8:47.23. He held off defending champion Robert Gary.

Two former Lady Vol stars and Olympians also had successful returns to the Sea Rays. Joetta Clark, a three-time Olympian at 800 meters, won the 1,500 meters for the second time in four years. LaVonna Floreal, a two-time Olympian, won her fifth 100-meter hurdles title in 12 years at the Sea Rays. She won in time of 13.37.

Other than folks from Big Orange Country, there were some other outstanding performances.

Green, who trains Johnson City, won both the 100 and 200 meters, and set a track record in the 100 meters with a time of 10.02. The track record in the hammer throw was broken as well. Former Olympian Judd Logan's throw of 234-8 broke the mark set last year by Brian Murer. Logan broke his own record on three consecutive tosses on his way to the record mark.

The Tony Wilson Memorial Award Winners for best runner and field athlete went to Williams for his win in the 5,000 meters and Logan for this meet record breaking effort in the hammer throw. Karol Jenkins won best field athlete for her win in the long jump, which was her third consecutive at the Sea Rays, and Michigan State's Stephanie Dueringer's win in the 5,000 meters and anchor role on the winning distance medley relay team earned her top female runner of the meet.

Junior Chris Brown (left) and sophomore Scott Perkinson (right) placed well in the Sea Ray competition, winning the 10,000m and the open-discus competition respectively.

Those are the highlights of the 31st Sea Ray Relays. The meet has grown through the years and in now provides Knoxville a chance to see some of the best track and field athletes in the world.

— Rob Hardin

Former Vol Tony Cosey ran away from the field in the 3000m Steeplechase, winning in record fashion. Photo by Donnell Field.

1997 TENNESSEE FOOTBALL ROSTER

NUMERICAL ROSTER

1 Leonard Little, DE/LB
2 Fred White, DB
2 Tom Windle, QB
3 Brian Darden, RB
4 Jeff Hall, PK
5 Craig Sanford, PK
6 Jeremaine Copeland, WR
8 Chris Hogue, PK/P
9 Tori Noel, DB
9 Josh Plemons, QB
10 Benson Scott, H
12 Marcus Nash, WR
13 Terry Fair, DB
15 Tim Sewell, DB
16 Peyton Manning, QB
17 Tee Martin, QB
18 Gerald Griffin, DB
19 Mark Levine, RB
20 Brian Lynch, P
21 Phillip Crosby, RB
22 Corey Terry, DE
23 Dwayne Goodrich, DB
24 Shawn Bryson, RB
26 Shane Begnaud, DB
27 Al Wilson, LB
28 Myles Atherton, RB
29 Mikki Allen, DB
30 Cory Gaines, DB
31 Robert Loudermilk, PK
33 Derrick Edmonds, RB
34 Steve Johnson, DB
35 Shawn Johnson, LB
36 Michael Traa, DB
37 Peerless Price, WR
40 Billy Ratliff, DT
42 Eric Westmoreland, LB
43 David Leaverton, P/PK
46 Raynoch Thompson, LB
48 Jeremy Fitzgerald, RB
50 Bill Duff, DT
52 Kevin Gregory, DS
53 Toby Champion, OG
54 Diron Robinson, OG
55 Ron Green, DT
55 Josh Campbell, DS
56 Ayan Martin, LB
57 Chris West, DT
58 Darwin Walker, DE
59 Sam Pinner, C
60 Matt Goodin, DT
65 Robert Poole, OT
67 Chad Clifton, OT
68 Spencer Riley, OG
70 Trey Teague, C
71 Brent Beavers, DE
72 Jarvis Reado, OT
74 Bernard Gooden, OG
75 Mercedes Hamilton, OG
76 Gentry Wright, DT
77 Josh Tucker, OT
78 Will Newman, C
79 Brad Lampley, OT
80 Eric Parker, WR
81 Benjie Shuler, WR
82 Eric Diogu, TE
83 Tyrone Graham, WR
84 Neil Johnson, TE
88 Andy McCullough, WR
90 Graff Corby, WR
91 Jonathan Brown, DE
92 Jeff Coleman, DE
93 Shaun Ellis, DE
94 Billy Beron, TE
97 Buck Buxton, DT
98 Antron Peebles, DE/LB
99 Eric Brown, LB

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Cl.	Exp	Hometown
29	Mikki Allen	DB	6-0	175	19	So.	1L	Murfreesboro
28	Myles Atherton	RB	6-0	240	21	So.	Sq.	Brandon, Miss.
71	Brent Beavers	DE	6-7	233	22	Sr.	Sq.	Tazewell, Va.
26	Shane Begnaud	DB	6-1	195	22	Sr.	2L	Lafayette, La.
94	Billy Beron	TE	6-3	280	23	Sr.	3L	River Ridge, La.
99	Eric Brown	LB	6-1	231	21	Sr.	1L	Edmond, Okla.
91	Jonathan Brown	DE	6-4	245	21	Sr.	3L	Tulsa, Okla.
24	Shawn Bryson	RB	6-1	212	20	Jr.	2L	Franklin, N.C.
97	Buck Buxton	DT	6-5	270	21	Sr.	1L	Girard, Ga.
55	Josh Campbell	DS	6-2	250	20	So.	Sq.	Knoxville
53	Toby Champion	OG	6-4	300	20	Fr.	Sq.	Humboldt
67	Chad Clifton	OT	6-6	300	21	So.	1L	Martin
92	Jeff Coleman	DE	6-4	242	21	Jr.	2L	Gaffney, S.C.
6	Jeremaine Copeland	WR	6-2	210	20	Jr.	2L	Harriman
90	Graff Corby	WR	6-3	197	21	Jr.	1L	Knoxville
21	Phillip Crosby	RB	6-1	243	20	Jr.	JC	Bessemer City, N.C.
3	Brian Darden	RB	6-0	190	21	So.	1L	Vicksburg, Miss.
82	Eric Diogu	TE	6-3	250	18	So.	1L	Garland, Texas
50	Bill Duff	DT	6-3	265	23	Sr.	3L	Delran, N.J.
33	Derrick Edmonds	RB	5-10	185	19	So.	1L	Tampa, Fla.
93	Shaun Ellis	DE	6-4	260	20	So.	Sq.	Anderson, S.C.
13	Terry Fair	DB	5-11	185	21	Sr.	3L	Phoenix, Ariz.
48	Jeremy Fitzgerald	RB	6-2	220	21	Jr.	Sq.	Dayton
30	Cory Gaines	DB	5-11	185	21	Sr.	2L	Baton Rouge, La.
74	Bernard Gooden	OG	6-3	320	19	Fr.	Sq.	Bradenton, Fla.
60	Matt Goodin	DT	6-0	255	21	Jr.	Sq.	Englewood
23	Dwayne Goodrich	DB	6-0	180	19	So.	1L	Oak Lawn, Ill.
83	Tyrone Graham	WR	5-9	160	20	Fr.	Sq.	High Point, N.C.
55	Ron Green	DT	6-1	275	21	Jr.	2L	Severna Park, Md.
52	Kevin Gregory	DS	6-4	270	21	So.	Sq.	Union, S.C.
18	Gerald Griffin	DB	6-1	182	19	So.	1L	Murfreesboro
4	Jeff Hall	PK	6-0	182	21	Jr.	2L	Winchester
75	Mercedes Hamilton	OG	6-3	295	22	Jr.	2L	Waynesboro, Ga.
8	Chris Hogue	PK/P	6-1	188	22	Sr.	1L	Memphis
84	Neil Johnson	TE	6-4	250	19	Fr.	Sq.	Nashville
35	Shawn Johnson	LB	6-2	217	21	So.	1L	Louisville, Ky.
34	Steve Johnson	DB	5-11	175	21	Jr.	2L	Powder Springs, Ga.
79	Brad Lampley	OT	6-5	285	22	Sr.	1L	Louisville, Ky.
43	David Leaverton	P/PK	6-4	210	19	Fr.	Sq.	Midland, Texas
19	Mark Levine	RB	5-11	189	21	Jr.	2L	Dallas, Texas
1	Leonard Little	DE/LB	6-3	247	22	Sr.	2L	Asheville, N.C.
31	Robert Loudermilk	PK	6-2	164	20	So.	Sq.	Brentwood
20	Brian Lynch	P	6-0	185	21	Sr.	Sq.	Nashville
16	Peyton Manning	QB	6-5	222	21	Sr.	3L	New Orleans, La.
56	Ayan Martin	LB	6-2	230	20	Fr.	Sq.	Winchester
17	Tee Martin	QB	6-3	220	19	So.	1L	Mobile, Ala.
88	Andy McCullough	WR	6-3	201	21	Sr.	3L	Dayton, Ohio
12	Marcus Nash	WR	6-3	190	21	Sr.	3L	Tulsa, Okla.
78	Will Newman	C	6-4	303	22	Jr.	Sq.	New Market
9	Tori Noel	DB	6-0	197	22	Sr.	3L	Memphis
80	Eric Parker	WR	6-0	163	18	Fr.	—	Shorewood, Ill.
98	Antron Peebles	DE/LB	6-3	247	20	Jr.	1L	Murfreesboro
59	Sam Pinner	C	6-3	280	23	Sr.	1L	Memphis
9	Josh Plemons	QB	6-3	200	19	So.	Sq.	Kingston
65	Robert Poole	OT	6-3	291	22	Sr.	3L	Birmingham, Ala.
37	Peerless Price	WR	6-0	183	20	Jr.	2L	Dayton, Ohio
40	Billy Ratliff	DT	6-3	275	19	So.	1L	Magnolia, Miss.
72	Jarvis Reado	OT	6-5	290	22	Jr.	1L	Marrero, La.
68	Spencer Riley	OG	6-3	289	21	So.	1L	New Market
54	Diron Robinson	OG	6-3	295	22	Jr.	2L	Oklahoma City, Okla.
5	Craig Sanford	PK	6-1	168	22	Sr.	Sq.	Hermitage
10	Benson Scott	H	6-0	193	20	So.	Sq.	Knoxville
15	Tim Sewell	DB	5-11	178	21	Jr.	2L	Columbia
81	Benjie Shuler	WR	6-2	195	22	Sr.	3L	Bryson City, N.C.
70	Trey Teague	C	6-5	287	22	Sr.	3L	Jackson
22	Corey Terry	DE	6-3	260	21	Jr.	1L	Warrenton, N.C.
46	Raynoch Thompson	LB	6-3	217	19	So.	Sq.	New Orleans, La.
36	Michael Traa	DB	5-11	189	22	Jr.	Sq.	Sarasota, Fla.
77	Josh Tucker	OT	6-4	290	19	So.	1L	Asheville, N.C.
57	Chris West	DT	6-3	265	21	So.	Sq.	Rumford, Maine
58	Darwin Walker	DE	6-3	281	20	So.	Tr.	Round O, S.C.
42	Eric Westmoreland	LB	6-0	210	20	So.	1L	Jasper
2	Fred White	DB	5-11	185	19	So.	1L	Griffin, Ga.
27	Al Wilson	LB	6-0	226	20	Jr.	2L	Jackson
2	Tom Windle	QB	6-4	200	20	Fr.	Sq.	Livingston
76	Gentry Wright	DT	6-0	275	20	So.	Sq.	Memphis

1997 TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

Probable Order of Substitution

OFFENSE

TE:	**82**	**Eric Diogu (So., 6-3, 250) -or-**
	84	**Neil Johnson (Fr., 6-4, 250)**
	94	Billy Beron (Sr., 6-3, 280)
LT:	**67**	**Chad Clifton (So., 6-6, 300)**
	77	Josh Tucker (So., 6-4, 290)
LG:	**54**	**Diron Robinson (Jr., 6-3, 295) -or-**
	68	**Spencer Riley (So., 6-3, 289)**
	74	Bernard Gooden (Fr., 6-3, 320)
C:	**70**	**Trey Teague (Sr., 6-5, 287)**
	59	Sam Pinner (Sr., 6-3, 280)
	78	Will Newman (Jr., 6-4, 303)
RG:	**75**	**Mercedes Hamilton (Jr., 6-3, 295)**
	53	Toby Champion (Fr., 6-4, 300)
RT:	**65**	**Robert Poole (Sr., 6-3, 291)**
	72	Jarvis Reado (Jr., 6-5, 290)
	79	Brad Lampley (Sr., 6-5, 285)
WR:	**12**	**Marcus Nash (Sr., 6-3, 190)**
	88	Andy McCullough (Sr., 6-3, 201)
	6	Jeremaine Copeland (Jr., 6-2, 210)
	90	Graff Corby (Jr., 6-3, 197)
WR:	**37**	**Peerless Price (Jr., 6-0, 183)**
	81	Benjie Shuler (Sr., 6-2, 195)
	80	Eric Parker (Fr., 6-0, 163)
	83	Tyrone Graham (Fr., 5-9, 160)
QB:	**16**	**Peyton Manning (Sr., 6-5, 222)**
	17	Tee Martin (So., 6-3, 220)
	2	Tom Windle (Fr., 6-4, 200)
	9	Josh Plemons (So., 6-3, 200)
TB:	**24**	**Shawn Bryson (Jr., 6-1, 212) -or-**
	19	**Mark Levine (Jr., 5-11, 189)**
	33	Derrick Edmonds (So., 5-10, 185)
	3	Brian Darden (So., 6-0, 190)
FB:	**21**	**Phillip Crosby (Jr., 6-1, 243)**
	48	Jeremy Fitzgerald (Jr., 6-2, 220)
	28	Myles Atherton (So., 6-0, 240)

SPECIALISTS

PR:	**13**	**Terry Fair (Sr., 5-11, 185)**
	6	Jeremaine Copeland (Jr., 6-2, 210)
	80	Eric Parker (Fr., 6-0, 163)
KOR:	**19**	**Mark Levine (Jr., 5-11, 189)**
	37	Peerless Price (Jr., 6-0, 183)
	23	Dwayne Goodrich (So., 180)
	24	Shawn Bryson (Jr., 6-1, 212)

DEFENSE

LE:	**1**	**Leonard Little (Sr., 6-3, 247) -or -**
	93	Shaun Ellis (So., 6-4, 260)
	92	Jeff Coleman (Jr., 6-4, 242)
LT:	**50**	**Bill Duff (Sr., 6-3, 265)**
	40	Billy Ratliff (So., 6-3, 275)
	60	Matt Goodin (Jr., 6-0, 255)
RT:	**97**	**Buck Buxton (Sr., 6-5, 270) -or-**
	55	**Ron Green (Jr., 6-1, 275)**
	57	Chris West (So., 6-3, 265)
RE:	**91**	**Jonathan Brown (Sr., 6-4, 245)**
	22	Corey Terry (Jr., 6-3, 260)
	58	Darwin Walker (So., 6-3, 281)
LLB:	**27**	**Al Wilson (Jr., 6-0, 226)**
	42	Eric Westmoreland (So., 6-0, 210)
MLB:	**35**	**Shawn Johnson (So., 6-2, 217) -or-**
	1	Leonard Little (Sr., 6-3, 247)
	99	Eric Brown (Sr., 6-1, 231)
RLB:	**46**	**Raynoch Thompson (So., 6-3, 217)**
	56	Ayan Martin (So., 6-2, 230)
LCB:	**34**	**Steve Johnson (Jr., 5-11,175)**
	23	Dwayne Goodrich (So., 6-0, 180)
RCB:	**13**	**Terry Fair (Sr., 5-11, 185)**
	18	Gerald Griffin (So., 6-1, 182)
SS:	**9**	**Tori Noel (Sr., 6-0, 197)**
	2	Fred White (So., 5-11, 185) -or-
	29	Mikki Allen (So., 6-0, 175)
FS:	**30**	**Cory Gaines (Sr., 5-11, 185) -or-**
	18	**Gerald Griffin (So., 6-1, 182)**
	26	Shane Begnaud (Sr., 6-1, 195)

SPECIALISTS

P:	**43**	**David Leaverton (Fr., 6-4, 210)**
	8	Chris Hogue (Sr., 6-1, 188)
PK:	**4**	**Jeff Hall (Jr., 6-0, 182)**
	8	Chris Hogue (Sr., 6-1, 188)
	31	Robert Loudermilk (So., 6-2, 164)
DS:	**52**	**Kevin Gregory (So., 6-4, 270)**
	55	Josh Campbell (So., 6-2, 250)
H:	**10**	**Benson Scott (So., 6-0, 193)**

OFFENSE

Manning's Return Brightens Hopes For Productive Attack Despite Losses at Tailback, Fullback and Tight End

TIGHT ENDS

If you're looking for a one-word description of Tennessee's situation at tight end, try "green." The Vols' seemingly endless supply of experience has come to an abrupt halt with the loss of the duo who carried the burden last year. Starter Dustin Moore is under suspension through the 1997 season, and longtime reserve John Sartelle has graduated. That leaves sophomore Eric Diogu, who played briefly in a grand total of four games, as the nearest thing the Vols have to an experienced hand at this hybrid position which combines blocking and receiving requirements. Eric, a sophomore, has only one catch to his credit, a 13-yarder against Kentucky. Help is on the way in the person of Neil Johnson, whose dad, Carl, and brother, Greg, previously wore the Orange uniform. Neil will fight it out with Eric for the starting job. Billy Beron, a tough transplant from defense who has experienced shoulder problems, is looking for a home with the offense and could figure in the mix. **TOP RESERVES:** Neil Johnson or Eric Diogu, Billy Beron.

WIDE RECEIVERS

The way it shapes up, fearless Peerless Price may turn out to be as much priceless as he is fearless and peerless. That's because Price's background suggests he is uniquely suited to take over the long ball responsibilities heretofore handled by the noted bomb recipient, Joey Kent, now graduated. Price, registering 32 catches last year, averaged a whopping 19 yards, more even than Kent and six yards more than the returning Marcus Nash, whose 53 receptions were second only to Kent's team-leading 68. Price, Nash and Andy McCullough (24 catches) are counted on to offset the loss of Joey, but that will happen only if they can duplicate Kent's penchant for making the big play with the chips on the table. Jeremaine Copeland, relieved of quarterback duties following Peyton Manning's decision to stay around, is capable of posting impressive numbers as a receiver. Benjie Shuler is another veteran who, along with spring semester arrival Eric Parker, will vie for playing time. **TOP RESERVES:** Andy McCullough, Jeremaine Copeland, Benjie Shuler, Eric Parker.

TACKLES

Jarvis Reado's return could go far toward easing the woes of an offensive line that suffered last season from a lack of experience. Injured three games into the season, Reado should give the line some additional quality as a possibility to move up to a starter's role at tackle. He would thus return to the important position he held in the UNLV, UCLA and Florida contests. Chad Clifton, who advanced to the first team when Reado was sidelined, made steady progress and expects to retain his starting job. Robert Poole, who has been under scrutiny for a long time as a prospect with huge potential, should be in line for extensive play and a probable starting assignment on the right side. Josh Tucker and Brad Lampley will perform key reserve roles for a noticeably improved front wall. Prospects are definitely bright for more authoritative blocking. **TOP RESERVES:** Jarvis Reado, Brad Lampley, Josh Tucker.

GUARDS

The evolution of Spencer Riley, from underemployed sub earlier to starter at midseason, explained the dramatic turnaround in the offensive line's proficiency as the season advanced. But a nagging back injury, since surgically corrected, cost Spencer a chance to benefit from a spring practice in which he was designated a regular at left guard. Spencer's absence, though, gave Diron Robinson the opportunity to make a comeback after recovering from an ankle injury sustained midway through the 1996 season. Diron is expected to challenge Riley for the starting job. Over on the right side, Mercedes Hamilton, a one-time defensive hopeful switched to offense, expects to fill the first-team assignment which he held in the latter stages of the 1996 season. Toby Champion, behind Hamilton, is a key to the Vols' depth on the offensive front. The same applies to Bernard Gooden, another highly touted newcomer. **TOP RESERVES:** Diron Robinson, Bernard Gooden, Toby Champion.

CENTERS

Trey Teague, highly capable of filling a number of positions, is the odds-on favorite to carry out the same assignment he captured late last season. Elected an alternate captain, Trey is obviously a team leader and a dependable operative in getting the ball snapped into the hands of quarterback Peyton Manning. Furthermore, he has a background of working at other positions in the line and has a feel for what's happening with the offense at a particular moment. The coaching staff is confident Trey will continue at the pace he established in winning the starting nod last fall. If that's the case, he can be projected as an all-star candidate in his senior season. Sam Pinner and Will Newman provide backup strength. Kevin Gregory is the frontrunner to take over deep-snapping duties in the kicking game, replacing the dependable Mark Ingram. **TOP RESERVES:** Sam Pinner, Will Newman.

QUARTERBACKS

A review of statistics explains only part of the jubilation that engulfed Big Orange Country when Peyton Manning announced he will remain a schoolboy one more year. Peyton's value is tied more to his leadership and savvy than to such glowing statistics as most career touchdown passes, most career passing yards and an assortment of 17 other school marks relating to single game, season and career achievements. One figure that bespeaks the quality of his work is that Tennessee has compiled a 28-4 record with Manning as the

starter. Last year he threw for 3287 yards, first time a Vol ever exceeded the 3000 standard, and in so doing broke his own record that was established in 1995. Coming off an MVP performance in the Florida Citrus Bowl victory over Northwestern, Manning was elected co-captain of the 1997 Vols. Tee Martin, a gifted athlete in his own right, made significant strides in spring practice as Peyton's first replacement. **TOP RESERVES:** Tee Martin.

TAILBACKS

With Jay Graham's college career coming to a close, Vol coaches looked forward to a wide-open battle to select his successor. Wide open it was all right, but not necessarily decisive in answering the question of how well the Vol running game can match the anticipated passing prowess the offense can be expected to muster under the leadership of Peyton Manning. Top contenders Shawn Bryson, Mark Levine. Derrick Edmonds and Brian Darden had their moments in spring practice, but none pulled away from the pack with any element of command. Firing will continue into fall practice with August drills providing the final say-so on who will start against Texas Tech. Darden suffered an injury in spring practice that set back his hopes of winning the starting job. Newcomers on campus this fall could have a shot at earning significant playing time. **TOP RESERVES:** Mark Levine, Derrick Edmonds, Brian Darden.

FULLBACKS

The question of the strength of the Vol running game may relate as much to the what transpires at fullback as it does at tailback. Chester Ford and Eric Lane, a proficient senior tandem last season, presented a maturity that will be missing in 1997 as judged by criterion of experience. In fact, Phillip Crosby, who was away at junior college last season but arrived on campus in January, logged more practice time in the spring than anybody else. At 6-1, 243, Phillip has the bulk and speed to level enemy tacklers who will be stalking the tailback corps and Manning. What he doesn't have is experience in participating in the Tennessee offensive scheme. It's quite likely that tailbacks could get a chance to prove their diverse talents by spending some time filling the vital fullback slot, a position more identified with blocking than running. **TOP RESERVES:** Jeremy Fitzgerald.

DEFENSE

Assuming Everybody Returns With Health Restored, Quality At All Positions Shapes Up As A Reachable Goal

ENDS

He may be stationed at linebacker on occasion and subject to reassignment as developments warrant, but two-year returning regular Leonard Little will be an impact player for the Tennessee defense. One of the most destructive athletes ever to don an orange jersey, Little was averaging more than a sack per game at end last year when he was injured and missed the last five outings. Although he was held out of spring practice while undergoing knee rehabilitation, doctors say Leonard's progress is encouraging and that he will be able to play full blast this season. Elected co-captain with Peyton Manning, Little will line up most likely at left end, with middle linebacker a possibility on at least an occasional basis. Jonathan Brown, who had 12 Big Plays last year, is tabbed as a starter on the right side. There is youth with excellent potential behind Little, Brown and another proven veteran, junior Jeff Coleman. Corey Terry, Shaun Ellis and Darwin Walker were impressive in spring practice. **TOP RESERVES:** Jeff Coleman, Corey Terry, Shaun Ellis, Darwin Walker..

TACKLES

As Coach Phillip Fulmer says, the man to watch at Tennessee is trainer Mike Rollo. If Rollo can deliver everybody who missed spring practice to the starting gate this fall, the Vol defense can be brilliant. That assessment applies to tackle where Billy Ratliff and Ron Green will play an important role if their recovery progresses on schedule. Both Ratliff and Green can provide depth as backups to a pair of seniors, Bill Duff and Buck Buxton. It isn't far-fetched to imagine either or both the understudies landing a first-team berth. A healthy quartet of Duff, Buxton, Ratliff and Green could offset the loss of veteran Billy Beron, a dedicated senior whose shoulder injury led to a transfer to offense. Green accounted for 54 tackles before a knee injury required surgery in December. Duff started every game last season and ranked eighth on the tackle chart with 45. Buxton, out of junior college, came a long way in his first year as a Vol, lengthening his playing time as the season moved along. **TOP RESERVES:** Billy Ratliff, Ron Green.

LINEBACKERS

Shawn Johnson is a possibility to open the season at middle linebacker, but there is a big contingency shadowing the sophomore hopeful. Shawn's fate is tied to the hands of the decision-makers who will determine whether Leonard Little plays end (as he did last year) or middle linebacker (as has been contemplated). Little was held out of spring practice while recuperating from knee surgery, but his placement this fall will reverberate throughout the Vol defensive structure.

Little's mastery of the Big Play—whether it's a sack, tackle for lost yardage or fumble recovery—is a key to Tennessee's hopes for an improved defense. Al Wilson is another example of Big Play artistry, having strung together 15 of the tide-turners last year. Al, who had 87 tackles credited to him as a sophomore, is slated for a second season as a starter at left linebacker. Sophomore Raynoch Thompson made a lasting impression in spring practice, earning himself a possible starting assignment on the right side. Up from freshman ranks, he will try to ward off a challenge from sophomore Ayan Martin. Eric Westmoreland and Eric Brown can provide quality depth. **TOP RESERVES:** Eric Westmoreland, Eric Brown, Ayan Martin.

CORNERBACKS

Raymond Austin's leadership at left cornerback inspired outstanding effort from his teammates. He will be missed. But the gloom over his departure was dissipated by the blossoming of a cadre of obviously talented reinforcements. Dwayne Goodrich, Mikki Allen and Gerald Griffin showed ability beyond the ordinary during their freshman introduction to varsity play in 1996. When spring practice confirmed the glowing appraisals of their quality, the reaction cushioned the blow of Austin's farewell. Not that Goodrich, Allen or Griffin can expect to attain first-team status from the outset. Veterans Terry Fair and Steve Johnson have no plans to surrender the advantage they earned on the battlefield in past autumns. Fair, in particular, is solidly set at right cornerback. He had a team-high (tied with Austin) four interceptions and developed into one of the nation's most feared punt return specialists. His 29 returns for a 13.8-yard average included two that ended in touchdowns. Johnson has made it clear he will be the starting left cornerback until somebody comes along and beats him out. Goodrich in a mopup role against Arkansas had a sensational afternoon, registering two fumble recoveries and an interception for a touchdown. **TOP RESERVES:** Dwayne Goodrich, Gerald Griffin, Mikki Allen.

STRONG SAFETIES

Tori Noel doesn't make much of a ripple until you add things up at the end and discover he was one one of the Vols' most effective defenders. In his first full season as a regular, he managed to rank as the Vols' third-leading tackler, his 64 stops trailing only Tyrone Hines' 110 and Al Wilson's 87. With Hines gone and Wilson's numbers within hailing distance, Noel is a possibility as a senior to move up a notch or two on the tackle chart. He had 12 Big Plays, including five passes knocked down. Fred White, a sophomore, will play behind Noel, grooming himself for the day he will step in as the next in line at this critical defensive position, a job that carries equal part responsibility against both the passing and running attacks. **TOP RESERVES:** Fred White, Tim Sewell.

FREE SAFETIES

This is a position that is Cory Gaines' to win, but which is no leadpipe cinch to wind up in the hands of the veteran from the Bayou country of Louisiana. In Cory's favor, and a big plus at that, is the fact he has been around an appreciable time and is knowledgable about what it's going to take to do the job in acceptable fashion. He has been a part-time starter, earning a spot in the opening lineup three times in 1995 and once last year. Otherwise, Gaines has been employed as a competent reserve. Tilting against his chances of being a starter is the fact he missed part of spring practice with a shoulder injury that necessitated surgery. Shane Begnaud ended the spring as Gaines' top competition for the starting position. Like Gaines, Shane has been here a while. The freshman roster could be scanned for additional candidates. **TOP RESERVES:** Shane Begnaud.

KICKING

This Old Tennessee Standby Needs Some Young Men To Step Up To The Level Demanded By School's Great Tradition

Over the years, all the way back to Bob Neyland and then under subsequent coaches including Phillip Fulmer, a sound kicking game has been a hallmark of good Tennessee football teams. The 1997 Orange should be a worthy follower of that hallowed tradition. Newcomers will need to fill key positions, most notably as punter, holder and snapper. Larry Binion's graduation opened the door for Texan David Leaverton to have the first shot at the punting assignment. Mark Ingram and Jason Price also concluded their eligibility, setting the stage for Kevin Gregory to succeed Ingram as kick snapper and for Benson Scott to take over as Price's replacement holding for extra points and field goals. The big question mark hovers over Jeff Hall, All-Southeastern Conference as a freshman two years ago and a man whose accomplishments last season accounted for 77 points. He hit 10 of 18 field goal tries and 47 of 49 extra point kicks. But he was bothered by a nagging back problem through much of the season. Off-season surgery during the winter is counted on to allow Jeff to return in fine fettle for his junior campaign. Chris Hogue is in reserve, ready to lend his leg to the cause as either punter or placekicker.

The Last Word...

SEASON TICKETS AND LOTS OF GOOD TIMES

No doubt by now, you have made the proper arrangements for purchasing your 1997 season football tickets. The official deadline was May 1.

In any event, for many, if not most, UT people, Tennessee season football tickets are a "must-have" item every year, regardless of the teams on the schedule or the prospects for the season to come.

In my development as a Vol, going on now since 1957 (has it really been 40 years???), I remember getting my first season tickets way back in 1972, 25 years ago. Before that it was a scramble, getting tickets from the student allotment or from friends.

There was a time high school students could sit in Section X for a dollar, but that was a long time ago, back in the days the scoreboard was on the Hill, complete with a clock that was really a clock, complete with minute and second hands. It was a time "Band Day" was a big deal on campus.

In 1972, I was a member of the Century Club and my good buddy Dave Roberts called me nearly out of the blue with a chance to buy two ducats in what was then the new Southwest Upper Deck. He didn't say, but the ducats were in Section OO, Row 23 and 24. It didn't take long to get a check written and get the precious pasteboards in my hand.

I rarely, if ever, sat in those seats, because my good friends Doug Jones and Jim Gentry had the seats on either side. Another friend, Jack Dixon, had access to the other two seats, so there we were with six seats right there in a row.

The next year, I was in Memphis and it came time to renew. I did, and after a misstep with the credit card I used, the yellow ticket from the Post Office arrived at 4561 Hudgins Road and I again wasted no time scurrying to the Whitehaven Post Office to retrieve the precious items.

There they were, season tickets for the home games and games at Army, Memphis (against Kansas), Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky. All sideline seats on the road, Not bad, huh?

I kept them in a locked metal box and occasionally just took them out to look at them and touch them, trying to figure out what might happen that fall. I've had them ever since.

That was part of a time, starting in 1970, the year I was graduated from UT, when I saw nearly every game the Vols played, regardless.

Let's see, now: Neyland Stadium, Vanderbilt Stadium in Nashville and the Liberty Bowl in Memphis; Stoll Field and Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington and Cardinal Stadium in Louisville; Legion Field in Birmingham and Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn; Sanford Stadium in Athens and Grant Field in Atlanta; Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, S.C., formerly known as Carolina Stadium; the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida Field in Gainesville, the Orange Bowl in Miami, Tampa Stadium and the Citrus Bowl in Orlando;

Then there's Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson, Vaught-Hemingway Stadium in Oxford and Scott Field in Starkville; the Cotton Bowl in Dallas and the Astrodome in Houston; Razorback Stadium in Fayetteville and War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock; Tulane Stadium and the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans; Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., Anaheim Stadium, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, and the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles; Alumni Stadium in Chestnut Hill, Mass., Michie Stadium in West Point, N.Y., and the famed Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J.

Gentry was there on the traveling squad from way before 1972, going back to 1958 or 1959, and is still around, as is Dixon, a mainstay in the City of Knoxville Treasurer's Office.

Two friends from that era are gone, both taken before their time: Bob Sullivan, who was there in the early 1970s, Mike Williams, a walk-on in 1967, who was on our traveling squad on and off in the 1970s.

There's also long-time Vol fan W. Bronson Potter and his traveling buddy Pete Newman and Dean Powell and their memories of their buddies Horace Justus, father of former Vol Bill, and Alex Curtis.

Potter, for his part, saw Gene McEver's famous run in 1928, was there as a youngster for the building of Shields-Watkins Field and hasn't missed many moments since then.

It's been a grand and glorious time for all of us. Vol football is a tribute to the fans who still make the trips, buy the tickets, fight the traffic jams (sometimes even the opposing fans) and live and die with what goes on on the field. Just like we all do.

There's a method to all this madness. Season tickets and the contortions we all go through we go through to get them and keep them and the people we share them with are an integral part of our Tennessee football experience. Perhaps you already knew that.

— Tom Mattingly

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